

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data controller having a data control function and an image read function is added to a printer. A print data prepared by a host can be normally printed and a read image can also be printed without the intervention of the host for enabling a local copy of the original image. Normally packet communications are conducted between the data controller and the printer and a response is made to a status request, etc., sent from the host to the printer in real time. To make a local copy, packet communications are not conducted and data is sent at command level from the data controller to the printer, thereby increasing the processing speed.

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